

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /006 W

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R 180700Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5088

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIBREVILLE 1147

DEPT PASS TEXACO EAST, 135 EAST 42ND STREET

NEW YORK, N.Y.

TEL: 212-953-7854

MC CALL FOR ALLISON

1. HAVE DISCUSSED WITH TWO FRENCH ADVISORS TO MINISTRY MINES  
OUR DESIRE TO POSSIBLY DRILL DEEP LOCATION AND ORDINANCE  
NO 45/73. ADVISORS CONFIDENT THAT EXTENSION OF DATE WHEN  
WE MUST COMMENCE WELL FROM 31 MARCH TO 30 JUNE WILL BE GIVEN  
PROVIDED WE COMMIT TO WELL AT DEEP LOCATION. ORDINANCE  
QUESTION VERY TOUCHY SINCE SAME DRAFTED BY DIRECTOR AND  
THEN SIGNED BY MINISTER AND PREIDENT WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE  
FRENCH ADVISORS. IT SOMEWHAT APPEARS THAT MINISTER NOT  
AWARE AT TIME EXECUTION OF SIGNIFICANCE ORDINANCE AND IF  
ANY QUESTIONS COME UP HE WOULD BE IN EMBARRASSING POSITION  
WITH PRESIDENT. OTHER COMPANIES POSITION IS TO IGNORE  
ORDINANCE SINCE SAME ALSO CONTRARY THEIR AGREEMENTS. FRENCH  
ADVISORS STATE HAT THEY DO NOT AGREE WITH SAME  
PLUS ORDINANCE BADLY WORDED. ADVISORS STATE ORDINANCE  
WILL NOT BE ENFORCED AS WRITTEN. AFTER VOICING  
OUR CONCERN OVER 25 PERCENT WITHOUT REIMBURSEMENT AND  
MAXIMUM 60 PERCENT ADVISORS ALSO AGREED THAT SUCH FORMULA  
NOT ACCEPTABLE VIEW P G THEY ALSO POINT OUT THAT GOVERNMENT  
ALREADY HAS 10 PERCENT PARTICIPATION WITH ELF  
WHICH THEY PAID FOR. ADVISORS STATED WE CANNOT EXPECT  
TTO RECEIVE ONE SUBJECOILETTER FROM MINISTER EXEMPTING US  
FROM ORDINANCE BECAUSE OF MINISTER'S EMBARRASSING POSTION  
WITH PRESIDENT BUT THEY SUGGESTED THE FOLLOWING TYPE OF  
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LETTER WHICH SHOULD BE FAVORABLY RECEIVED

2. QUOTE. TO THE MINISTER: I HAVE THE HONOR TO REFER TO YOUR LETTER OF 20 JULY 1973.

3. I AM PLEASED TO ADVISE THAT TEXACO OIL COMPANY OF GABON, AS OPERATOR OF THE EQUATA MARIA FORMT, WHICH IS HELD IN EQUAL PARTS BY ITSELF AND CHEVRON PROPOSES TO COMMENCE THE DRILLING OF AN EXPLORATORY WELL TO EVALUATE THE PRE SALT COCOCO BEACH SECTION. IT IS ESTIMATION THAT THIS WELL WILL REQUIRE DRILLING TO A DEPTH OF APPROXIMATELY 3800 METERS.

4. THE SEISMIC RESEARCH RECENTLY CONCLUDED INDICATES THAT THE MOST PROSPECTIVE LOCATION FOR THIS WELL IS IN A WATER DEPTH OF APPROXIMATELY 170 METERS WHICH REQUIRES ASPECIAL DEEP WATER DRILLING RIG. TEXACO AND CHEVRON HAVE UNDER CONTRACT A RIG CAPABLE OF DRILLING THIS DEEP LOCATION, BUT SAME IS CURRENTLY IN OPERATION AND WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR TOWING TO GABON FOR 120 DAYS. WE THEREFORE REQUEST YOUR APPROVAL TO DRILL THE DEEP WATER LOCATION MENTIONED ABOVE, WIT DRILLING TO COMMENCE BY 30 JUNE 1974.

5. IN VIEW OF ORDINCANCE NO 45/73 WE REQUEST YOUR CONFIRMATION THAT SAME IS NOT APPLICABLE TO TEXACO AND CHEVRON AS A RESULT OF DECREE NO 00201 GRANTING US A MINING EXPLORATION PERMIT, DECREE NO 00737 RENEWING THIS PERMIT AND THE 21 SEPT 1968 ESTABLISHMENT AGREEMENTS BETWEEN TEXACO, CHEVRON AND THE REPUBLIC OF GABON. TEXACO AND CHEVRON ARE HOWEVER WILLING TO DISCUSS WITH THE REPUBLIC OF GABON POSSIBLE GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION PROVIDED THAT MUTUAL AGREEMENT IS REQUIRED ON THE TERMS OF PARTICIPATION. UNQUOTE.

6. MAY I HAVE YOUR RETURN TELEX ADVICE ON THIS. PLEASE REPLY TO AMEMBLBV 5250 AS WELL AS DIRECT TO TEXACO LIBREVILLE. IN SHORT GOVERNMENT WILL NOT GIVE US DESIRED LETTER DIRECT BUT WILL PROBABLY DO SO USING METHOD MENTIONED ABOVE. PLAN TO PRESENT TO MINISTER WEDNESDAY WHICH MIGHT BE HIS LAST DAY IN TOWN UNTIL JANUARY. DIRECTOR OUT OF COUNTRY. INTERESTED PARTY. ONALD L. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PARNELL

7. DECLASSIFY UPON RECEIPT AT DEPARTMENT.  
MCKESSON

NOTE BY OCT: NOT PASSED TO ABOVE ADDRESSEE.

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** EXPLORATORY DRILLING  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 DEC 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973LIBREV01147  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** LIBREVILLE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19731219/aaaaanpr.tel  
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**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 09 JAN 2002  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** n/a  
**TAGS:** ENRG, GB, TEXACO OIL CO  
**To:** STATE  
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